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**MILITARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,
MAY 15, 1778**

[Copied from Mss. in Archives Dept. Va. State Library and
contributed by Robt. B. Munford, Jr., member
Virginia Historical Society.]

“Sundry Matters referred by the Governor with the Advice
of the Council to the Consideration of the General Assembly.

1st From every appearance at present it seems evident that
the Scheme adopted by the last Assembly for raising volun-
teers to reinforce the grand Army will not succeed.

2^d The March of the Second Regiment of State Infantry
to join the grand Army and the Draughts of men for Mons^r
Loyautes Corps from the Regiment of State Artillery which has
not yet been nearly filled, have so reduced our Regular Force
that it is totally inadequate to the Defence of our Garrisons.
The employing of Militia for that purpose is found to be at-
tended with many difficulties, affords less Security and greatly
enhances our expenses.

3^d Sundry Resolutions & proceedings of Congress have been
received since the last Session and are sent herewith. The
Assembly Will please to be referred to them.

4th The Situation of the grand Army with respect to pro-
visions has been so alarming as to threaten no less than the
final disposition of it.

The Letters from Congress & General Washington while they
imported this, called for every possible aid from this State.
The most vigorous & proper measures the executive power
could devise have been pursued. Mr. John Hawkins has been
appointed purchasing Commissary & to him & sundry others
employed before him occasionally very large sums have been
advanced.

Congress have been infomed of the whole matter, approved of what has been done and promise to refund the Money speedily.

5th Many great Losses have been sustained by the Traders of this State & those of foreign Countries on this Coast for want of proper pilots. In order to stimulate Men of that profession, by advice of Council, an additional Encouragement of four Shillings per ton, besides their daily pay, was promised by the Governor to the pilots for every Foreign or State vessel safely brought into port.

6th For the further Security of Trade four small Batteries are ordered to be erected on the Eastern Shore. These seemed absolutely necessary as the Enemy are closely blocking up the Channels through which our Vessels formerly passed into North Carolina, and our Trade must in future be principally carried on by the Way of that Shore.

7th In order to make the provision of Cloaths & other necessities for the Virginia Troops in Continental Service as directed by the last Assembly Duncan Rose esq^r has been appointed agent & has procured various articles to the amount of about one hundred thousand pounds which will be forwarded to the Army as soon as possible.

8th Orders are sent to the agent for this State, in France, to Ship twenty thousand stands of Arms agreeable to the Directions of the last Assembly for the use of the Militia.

9th In the prosecution of Trade on the public Account it has been found impossible to convey the produce of this Country to foreign ports in Quantities sufficient to pay for the Articles we wanted to purchase. In order to remedy this Inconvenience, the Governor by Advice of the Council did by Letter empower William Lee esq^r Agent for this State in France to borrow a Sum of Money not exceeding two Millions of Livres & to pledge the Faith of this Commonwealth for the payment of the Same in Tobacco or other produce of this Country.

10th The Gentlemen who were appointed to Congress to Audit the Accounts of this Commonwealth against the Continent have made some progress in that Business. But it is as yet unfinished. And it is to be feared from the great difficulty already experienced of procuring Gentlemen who live

very remote from this place to attend & finish a work of this Nature that much delay will yet attend the final accomplishment of it.

11th From the encreasing Commerce & Intercourse with the French Nation and often receiving & sending Despatches of the greatest Importance in that Language, the executive power has been repeatedly embarrassed as the members of it are not accurately acquainted with the French Tongue. Interpreters have been occasionally employed. But ill Consequences were perceived to follow either from the Ignorance or Design of some of them. The Governor therefore in order to remedy these Evils by Advice of the Council, did appoint Mr. Charles Bellini to act in the Capacity of French Secretary with a Salary of two hundred pounds per annum till the pleasure of the Assembly should be known. From the accomplishments of Mr. Bellini there seems no doubt of his Fitness to fill this office in which Secrecy, Fidelity & Knowledge are so essentially necessary.

12th Since the last Session of Assembly Isaac Avery Esquire Resigned the Naval Office for Northampton and Thomas Parsons esqr was appointed to that office till the pleasure of the Assembly should be known.

13th Also Isaac Smith esqr resigned the Naval Office of Accomack & Robins Kendall Matthews esqr was appointed to the same till the Assembly signify their pleasure thereupon.

14th Sundry Ship Carpenters employed in the public yards were drafted to serve in the Continental Army under the Act of the last Session of Assembly; and on the earnest solicitation of the Navy Board and the Superintendants of the Ship Yards, the Governor by advice of the Council did desire the officer commanding the Continental Troops here to permit the said Carpenters to continue in their Yards. It was said great Detriment would ensue from the Loss of these Carpenters as others could not be got to supply their places. An exemption of these Workmen from Militia Duty in future it is supposed would tend to promote the public Good.

15th Information hath been received of several persons within this State having joined the Enemy as Traytors & leaving considerable Estates real & personal behind them. The Laws

seem to leave doubts as to the manner of proceeding against such offenders. A Speedy Method seems necessary to prevent the practice of these Frauds generally and to secrete them.

16th Upon considering the appointment given to M^r Loyauté. The executive power was induced to be of opinion that he had not a right to exercise Command over the officers of the Military in this State at large but was to confine it to the Corps of one hundred men who were to be trained by him in the manner which the Assembly directed. However it appears Mr. Loyauté understands his appointment to the office of Inspector General gives him the Command of the Regiment of Artillery if he should see occasion to exercise it. In order to clear this point from future Doubts the Governor & Council request the Assembly will be pleased to declare whether M^r Loyauté in his post of Inspector General is to assume such Command.

17th The Death of Jacob Bruce esq^r makes the Appointment of another Auditor of Public Accounts necessary.

18th The Several preceeding Matters with others which necessarily required large Expenditures have been the Cause of great Emissions of paper money. These added to former Emissions and a prodigious influx of Continental Money occasioned by the great Supplies to the Army drawn from this State have given such a Shock to public Credit that the price of Labour and every necessary has got to a height truly alarming and proves an inconceivable Clog to the prosecution of public Affairs."

[Endorsement on back of the Mss. as follows:

"Recommendation from Gov^r & Council of certain matters".

May 13, 1778"]